

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL MEMORANDUM**

**HB 995 – SB 1171**

March 17, 2015

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Authorizes handgun carry permit-holders to carry handguns within any public park, natural area, historic park, nature trail, campground, forest, greenway, or waterway or other similar public place that is owned or operated by state or local government. Removes from statute provisions related to required signage indicating the penalty for the unlawful carrying of a handgun in such areas. Removes the authority of local governments to prohibit by resolution the possession of handguns by valid handgun carry permit holders in parks or recreational areas owned or operate by the local government. Removes from statute provisions related to the replacement of, or the changing of, existing signage indicating that firearms are prohibited.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:**

Increase State Expenditures - \$24,000/One-Time

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (004275):** Deletes all language of the original bill. Authorizes handgun carry permit-holders to carry handguns within any public park, natural area, historic park, nature trail, campground, forest, greenway, or waterway or other similar public place, including any buildings located within or on those areas, that is owned or operated by state or local government. Removes from statute provisions related to required signage indicating the penalty for the unlawful carrying of a handgun in such areas. Removes the authority of local governments to prohibit by resolution the possession of handguns by valid handgun carry permit holders in parks or recreational areas owned or operate by the local government. Removes from statute provisions related to the replacement of, or the changing of, existing signage indicating that firearms are prohibited. Prohibits the carrying of explosives, explosive weapons, permanently disabled firearms, hoax devices, imitation firearms machete, or swords openly within 150 feet of a school. Creates a Class A misdemeanor for any such offense. Prohibits any state department to change, remove, or replace signs as a result of this act prior to the time the signs are regularly scheduled to be changed, replaced, or removed, or are required to be changed, replaced, or removed by any other law, or due to destruction or theft; provided that the General Assembly may specifically provide funds for the purpose of removing or replacing signs in the general appropriations act.

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

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Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Based on information provided by the County Officials Association of Tennessee, any impact to local government is estimated to be not significant.
- There will not be a sufficient number of Class A misdemeanor prosecutions for state or local government to experience any significant increase in revenue or expenditures.
- The increase in expenditures estimated for the original bill resulted from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's obligation to replace signs on state land; the prohibition of sign removal and replacement in the amended bill removes this cost; therefore, the fiscal impact of this bill as amended is estimated to be not significant on state government operations.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey L. Spalding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" and last name "Spalding" clearly distinguishable.

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

/maf